

## Book Reviews

### STELL & MARAN'S HEAD & NECK SURGERY

Third Edition.

Ed A. G. D. Maran, M. N. Gaze and J. A. Wilson.  
1993. Butterworth Heinemann: Oxford.  
ISBN 0 7506 0916. Price £35.00. 32 pp. Ill. 200.

Overall this is a very good text with excellent flick-through appeal and should undoubtedly become the standard text for trainees in the specialty especially those planning to sit the fellowship examination. It is concise, authoritative and readable to the point of being enjoyable! The approach to malignancy is didactic but in each case is clear and forms a good basis for informed discussion. The sections on 'controversies' are particularly useful for those studying for examinations.

I do, however, have some minor criticisms. The section on voice restoration (p 119) under the heading 'Specific after-care' is tucked away and lacking in contents for such an important subject. I feel that this whole section needs to be expanded and updated. Moreover, I do not like the term 'modified neck dissection' which is not in common usage and certainly does not enter the traditional arguments for and against favoured by examiners.

I was also concerned about the author's attitude to the management of bilateral lymph nodes. The philosophy is rather a dangerous one particularly for those inexperienced in the subject.

Finally I would suggest chapter 3 (Treatment Options) attempts to cover much more material than its title suggests and such important topics as IV fluids and feeding are dealt with rather too briefly. Perhaps they would be better omitted.

There is no doubt that this is still one of the best texts on the subject and a must for any aspiring head and neck surgeon. W. T. Farrington.

### HEAD AND NECK SURGERY/ OTOLARYNGOLOGY

Ed Byron J. Bailey.

B. J. Lippincott.

1993. ISBN 039 7511 205. 2 Vol. Set.

The two volumes constituting this work are vast, voluminous and detailed. Jointly they weigh 18 lbs, have 2,300 pages and are decidedly desk top rather than lap top tomes. There are over 200 contributors. The wealth of talent in North America has been focused into these many chapters and there is barely a famed name absent. The odd token European appears in the index.

It is clearly hard to cope with so many contributors and accordingly each chapter has to be read as an individual article. Inevitably there is overlap between the chapters and one may read about the same subject matter, even acquiring different advice from different parts of the book. Wegener's granuloma features in a number of places for the most part the authors echoing each others' views but some diversity in management between the authors becomes apparent. This is no bad thing in so contentious and fluid a subject. The literature culled is extensive though not comprehensive; much of it is more recent than expected suggesting that the specialty is newer than really it is. The seminal papers quoted are, for all that, key ones despite their not being original. For example the ligation of the maxillary artery surely antedates 1982. Other entities, for example, obscure audiological dysfunction is viewed as a serious neurological ailment.

These minor reservations are carping. It is a vast informative publication suitable for purchase by major libraries and has been compiled over recent months. Accordingly it is as up to date as one of these vast publications can be and in its 2,300 pages is compressed in very readable form most of what constitutes otolaryngology and head and neck surgery. P. McKelvie.

### MANUAL OF MIDDLE EAR SURGERY

Volume 1: Approaches, Myringoplasty,  
Ossiculoplasty and Tympanoplasty.

Mirko Tos. 1993.

Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, New York.

Mirko Tos is one of the world's most experienced all round otologists. He is also one of the most talented and productive writers on his subject. For the last two or three years he was frequently to be seen in hotel lobbies, aircraft lounges and wherever else an opportunity presented itself in the course of a hectic international conference schedule, poring over sheets of manuscript and files of illustrations with an air of anxious distraction and a deeply furrowed brow. The outcome of this tortured period of gestation has been this magnificent volume on middle ear surgery. The book was written with the goal of teaching young otologists tympanoplasty techniques by guiding them through the operations with step by step illustrations, and will eventually be supplemented by a second volume on mastoidectomy. The author's surgical career has coincided with the 'explosive worldwide development' of middle ear surgery over the last thirty years, and he is in a unique position to report the myriad methods which the creative ingenuity of otologists has spawned, in an attempt to overcome the ravages of inflammatory middle ear diseases.

The layout of the book is tripartite. In the first section, *Approaches*, the author reviews indications for surgery, and anaesthetic considerations, before leading into a detailed definition and description of incisions and skin flaps. I found these chapters to be of immense value as they cover aspects of ear surgery which are badly taught by trainers and badly understood by trainees. Furthermore the issues covered are still generally relevant, whereas many of the ossiculoplasty techniques described later in the book are of historical interest only.

The second section deals with Myringoplasty in minute and lucid detail, covering choice of material, general principles and practical aspects of surgery. Onlay and underlay techniques with various different types of perforation are described with particular reference to problem situations. The use of allograft tympanic membrane is covered although this is a method now under threat of extinction from HIV and other viruses. The use of cartilage and perichondrium either alone or in combination is described. The British reader will find Palisade Cartilage Tympanoplasty of interest. Introduced by Heermann, it still finds much favour in the German school of otology. Tos sums up his own attitude rather nicely when he writes 'the method of covering the entire tympanic cavity with palisades looks extremely mysterious'.

Section 3 on Ossiculoplasty and Tympanoplasty starts with a useful review of classification and explains why Wullstein's original (1968) concepts of Type 2 and Type 3 tympanoplasty are no longer appropriate, as indeed Wullstein himself later recognized. The importance of a universally understood and employed method of classification has always been recognized by Tos not only in middle ear surgery but in other areas of otology and he is right to highlight it again. There follows a compendium of almost every possible type of ossicular reconstruction known to man, from the simple to the impossibly complex. Sadly the proliferation of techniques does indeed confirm the oft stated observation

that no one is satisfactory, especially in the absence of a stapes arch. The use of autogenous material such as incus, malleus head and cortical bone still appears the best option and techniques of shaping and fitting such grafts are described in considerable detail. Throughout the history of synthetic prostheses runs a sadly repetitive leitmotif. Polyethylene, Teflon, porous plastics, and more recently ceramics have all come in on a wave of optimism to be replaced by disenchantment. The latest materials that Tos feels may have a place include the gold bell prosthesis of Pulsakar and Steinbach and the glass ionomer ossicle of Geyer and Helms. Time will tell. In an interesting observation on type 4 tympanoplasty the author states that it is a technique which should enjoy greater popularity and may often be a preferable option to columella techniques 'which ultimately in many cases do not offer the patients any hearing improvement'.

I have only one slight criticism of the book. I would have preferred, and I think the trainee otologist faced with such a plethora of techniques from which to choose would also prefer, the author to be slightly more judgemental in his description of some of the methods available. Although there are occasions when he does point out major disadvantages of a particular technique, I should have liked more often to be told 'This method is bad: avoid it'.

As Michael Glasscock states in the Foreword, what makes this book unique is the outstanding quality of the illustrations (1,103 in all) which were produced by the author himself specifically for this book, and embellished by Regitze Steinbruch. As a result there is continuity of style throughout; for example all illustrations are of the right ear. This represents a vast amount of work, but the result is one of the best books on practical otology currently available. It has been a pleasure to read it, and I hope I am invited to review Volume 2 when it appears.

Richard Ramsden